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Willamette

NATIONAL FOREST

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THIS FOREST, like 151 other forests in the United States, Alaska, and Puerto Rico, was proclaimed a "national forest" by an act of Congress and thus was dedicated for the use of all the people of our country. National forests were established so that watersheds could be protected and maintained and other forest resources important in the economic and social life of the people—timber, recreation, forage, and wildlife—would always be available.

Willamette National Forest was appropriately named for the principal water artery of western Oregon, the Willamette River. The forest shelters the headwaters of the North and Middle Forks of that river and several of its large tributaries, including the McKenzie and Santiam Rivers. These important streams are a source of water for the households and industries of such cities as Eugene, Albany, and Salem, and in valley communities along the way.

Because water is such a vital resource, management of the Willamette watersheds is of first importance to forest officers. A healthy watershed acts as a sponge for rain and melting snow. The trees and shrubs on a mountainside break the fall of such moisture, and a good soil mantle of plant debris on the forest floor will absorb it slowly so that it can percolate downward into the earth. When a healthy watershed is damaged or destroyed, the result is an uneven flow of water for the dependent streams and at times floods ranging all the way from small to disastrous. The maintenance of vegetative cover is therefore given primary consideration in every activity on the more than 1½ million acres within the forest.

The capacity of the Willamette forest to grow timber is very high. It is estimated that under proper management the forest can produce 323 million board feet of timber each year forever. There are more than 38 billion board feet of standing timber on the mountain slopes, valleys, and hillsides of the forest, and in addition there are some 240,000 acres of timber in the higher mountain and lake country that are reserved from cutting. These timber stands are composed of Douglas-fir, hemlock, cedar, noble and silver fir, and some minor species.

Willamette timber stands contribute to a multimillion-dollar business by private lumber concerns in communities near the forest. Removal of the mature timber is done by clear-cutting small blocks; that is, all timber is cut on areas of 30 to 60 acres spaced about one-

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eighth mile or more apart. Mature trees surrounding the cut-over areas reseed these areas and start a young forest on the cut-over land. Trained forest officers manage the timber for continuous production. When a stand is ready for cutting, the sale is advertised in newspapers and lumber concerns submit bids. The highest bidder harvests the timber.

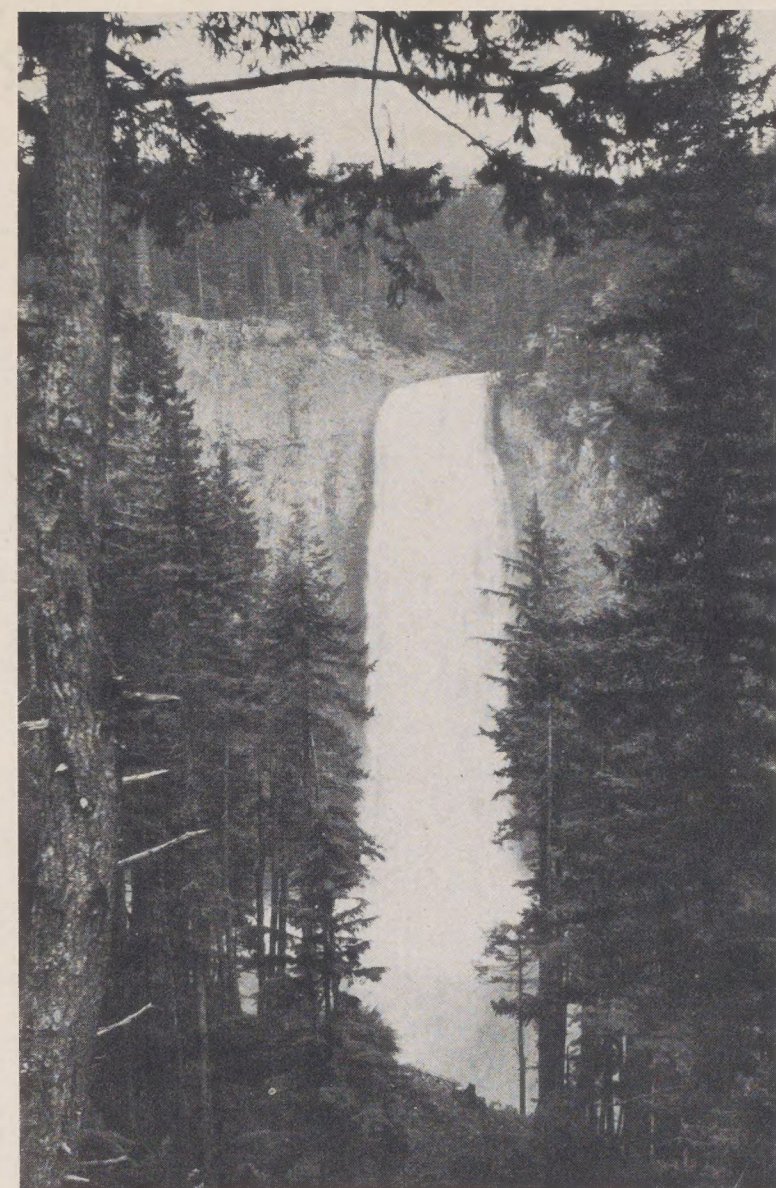
Money received from timber sales and from the sale of any other forest resource is deposited in the United States Treasury; 25 percent of the amount is returned to the State for distribution to counties in which the forest is located. The counties use this money for roads and schools. An additional 10 percent is given to the Forest Service for roads and trails. Thus, not only do our forests contribute to local industry, they contribute to national security and help pay for their own maintenance.

Forage for cattle and sheep is recognized as another important resource of our forests, but the Willamette is not especially important in this respect because it is so heavily timbered. There are some areas on the forest, however, to which ranchers bring their cattle and sheep for summer pasture. The animals are grazed under permit and the ranchers pay a small fee per animal for the grazing privilege. While the cattle are on the forest, home ranch land can be used for the production of hay or other crops and depleted pastures allowed to recover.

To lovers of the outdoors, the recreational resource of Willamette National Forest is just as important as the timber resource. With four snowcapped peaks—Mount Jefferson, North, Middle, and South Sister—all more than 10,000 feet in elevation, and numerous lesser peaks, including Mount Washington and Three Fingers Jack, as a backdrop, the part of the forest along the summit of the Cascade Range possesses a scenic grandeur difficult to equal. Hundreds of mountain lakes, many of which furnish excellent fishing, dot the alpine meadow country.

Three pioneer wagon roads—the Oregon Military Road through Willamette Pass, the McKenzie Pass Road, and the Santiam Pass Road—were used by early settlers on their journeys to and from the Willamette Valley by horse and wagon, ox team, and on foot. Today, paved highways, all built since 1926, have replaced these early routes. One beauty-packed foot and horseback route follows the

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Salt Creek Falls as viewed from Oregon State Highway 58—268 feet of beauty.

summit of the Cascade Mountains over the Oregon Skyline Trail. From Jefferson Park—well-known for its July profusion of multi-colored flowers—the trail crosses through the Mount Jefferson Wild Area past the Eight Lakes Basin, skirts Three Fingers Jack and Mount Washington, meanders across the Three Sisters Wilderness Area past the Three Sisters, and on south by Diamond Peak and Crater Lake National Park.

One hundred and seventy-three camp and picnic grounds have been built on the Willamette for the convenience and pleasure of the public. These grounds are equipped with fireplaces, tables and benches, and sanitation facilities. Visitors are asked to be careful with fire and to leave a clean camp.

Three winter sports areas have been developed to care for the increasing demand for ski courses. Santiam Pass Lodge, built by the Government to serve the Hoodoo Butte Ski Bowl, is a year-round recreation center. The bowl has shelters, ski tows, and a thousand-foot ski lift. These are operated under permits issued to private individuals. Other ski areas are located at Willamette Pass and above McKenzie Bridge.

Fish and game always attract sportsmen to the national forests. The game population of the Willamette is made up of elk, bear, deer, cougar, and beaver; other animals found on the forest are wildcat, coyote, wolf, red fox, marten, mink, badger, ermine, otter, skunk, raccoon, and muskrat. The lakes and streams of the forest have been stocked with hundreds of thousands of trout for the improvement of fishing. However, there are still places on the Willamette where a fisherman can quickly catch his limit. State game and fish laws apply on all national forests.

The Mount Jefferson Wild Area and the Three Sisters Wilderness Area encompass more than 300,000 acres of primitive country made up of mountain peaks, perpetual glaciers, crystal-clear streams, and alpine lakes, green forests, and mountain meadows. "Wilderness and wild areas" have been set aside on some of our national forests so that a part of our country will remain as nature created it, unspoiled and unmodified. This means that man-made improvements are not permitted in such areas—only Forest Service trails or developments that are essential in fire protection. For those who like to rough it in the back country, wilderness areas offer an oppor-

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tunity not available anywhere else. Mount Jefferson Wild Area and the Three Sisters Wilderness Area are within the Willamette and Deschutes National Forests. Guides and horses can be obtained at several places within or near the forests.

To be sure that your forests are not destroyed, BE CAREFUL WITH FIRE, the Public Enemy No. 1 of all forest values. Most fires are caused by man. Smokers' fires, campers' fires, hunters' warming fires, and brush-burning fires—these head the list. Build your fire only in a safe place and put it dead out before you leave. Never throw lighted cigarettes, cigars, or tobacco away while traveling in the forest.

The personnel of the Willamette National Forest hope you enjoy your visit. They ask your help in preventing fires and in protecting our mutual forest heritage. They consider it a privilege to help you use and enjoy this forest. You will find the Forest Supervisor at Eugene, Ore., and District Rangers at Detroit, Cascadia, McKenzie Bridge, Lowell, and Oakridge. Get acquainted with them. They are good men to know.



Caught at the right part of the season, rhododendrons form a breathtaking bouquet along a mountain roadside. This scene is near the Breitenbush Road.

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This fine stand of Douglas-fir is ready for harvest.

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Most forest fires are man-caused. Remember that it takes nature 50 years to produce a good-size tree. Think of all the other forest values that are lost too. Be as careful with fire in the forest as you would in your own home.



The Hoodoo Ski Bowl is enjoyed by young and old. Winter playgrounds are a part of this forest's recreational resource.



Columbia black-tailed deer are numerous on the Willamette. This forest baby is several weeks old.

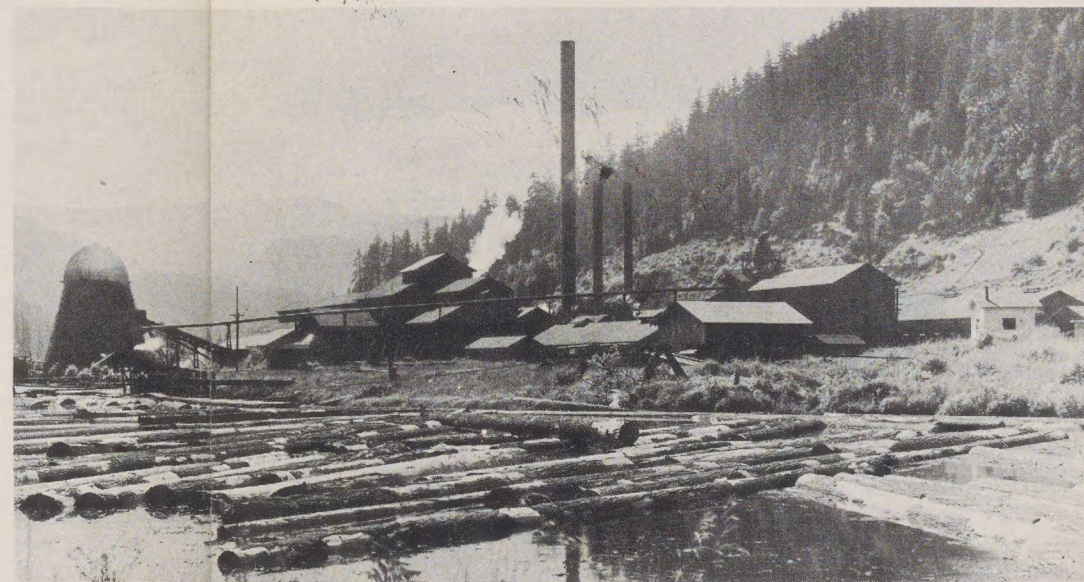


One hundred and seventy-three camp grounds and picnic areas have been provided for the pleasure and comfort of Willamette visitors.

Timber from Willamette National Forest plays an increasingly important role in the economy of local communities. It is estimated that 1,000 board feet of logs will furnish jobs for from 3 to 10 men.



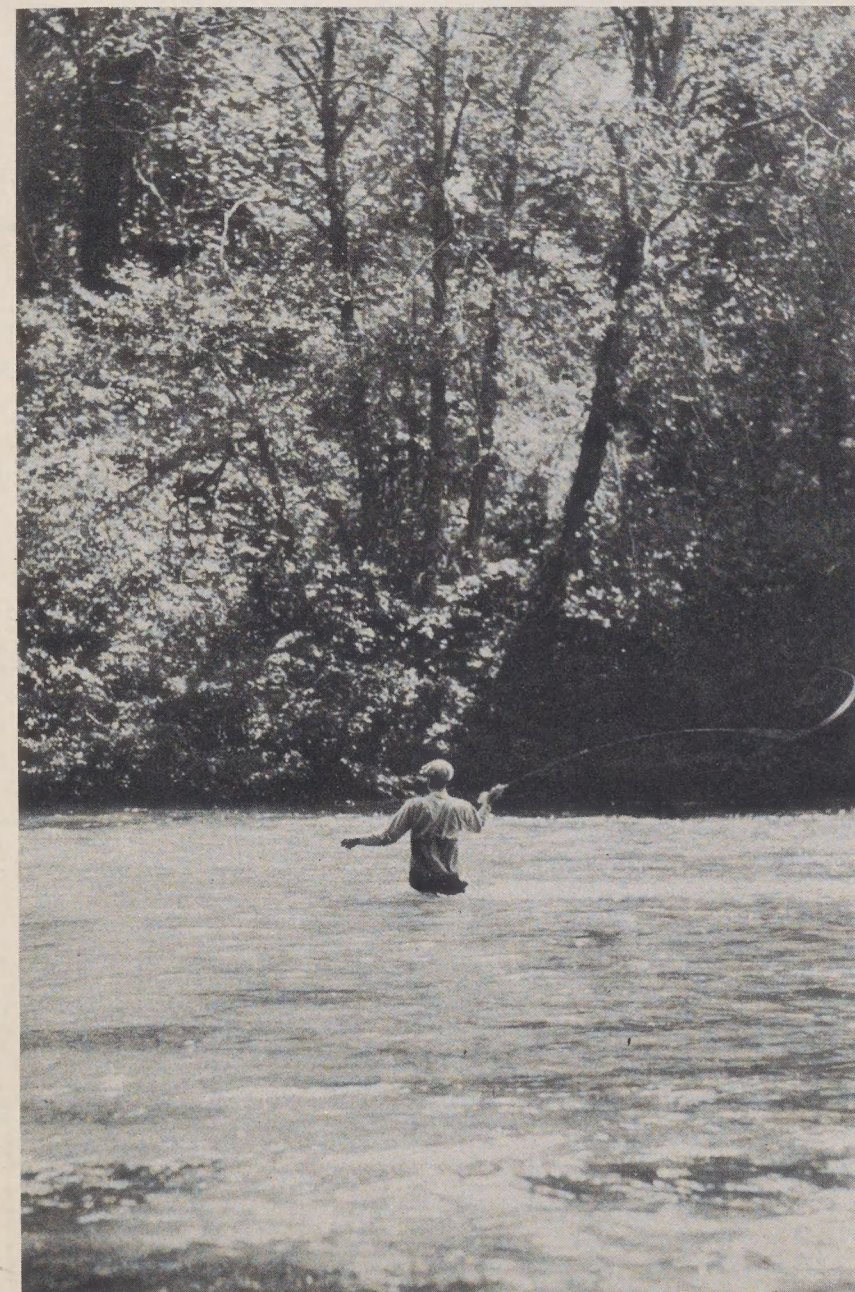
The continued operation of many sawmills depends on timber supplied from our national forests.



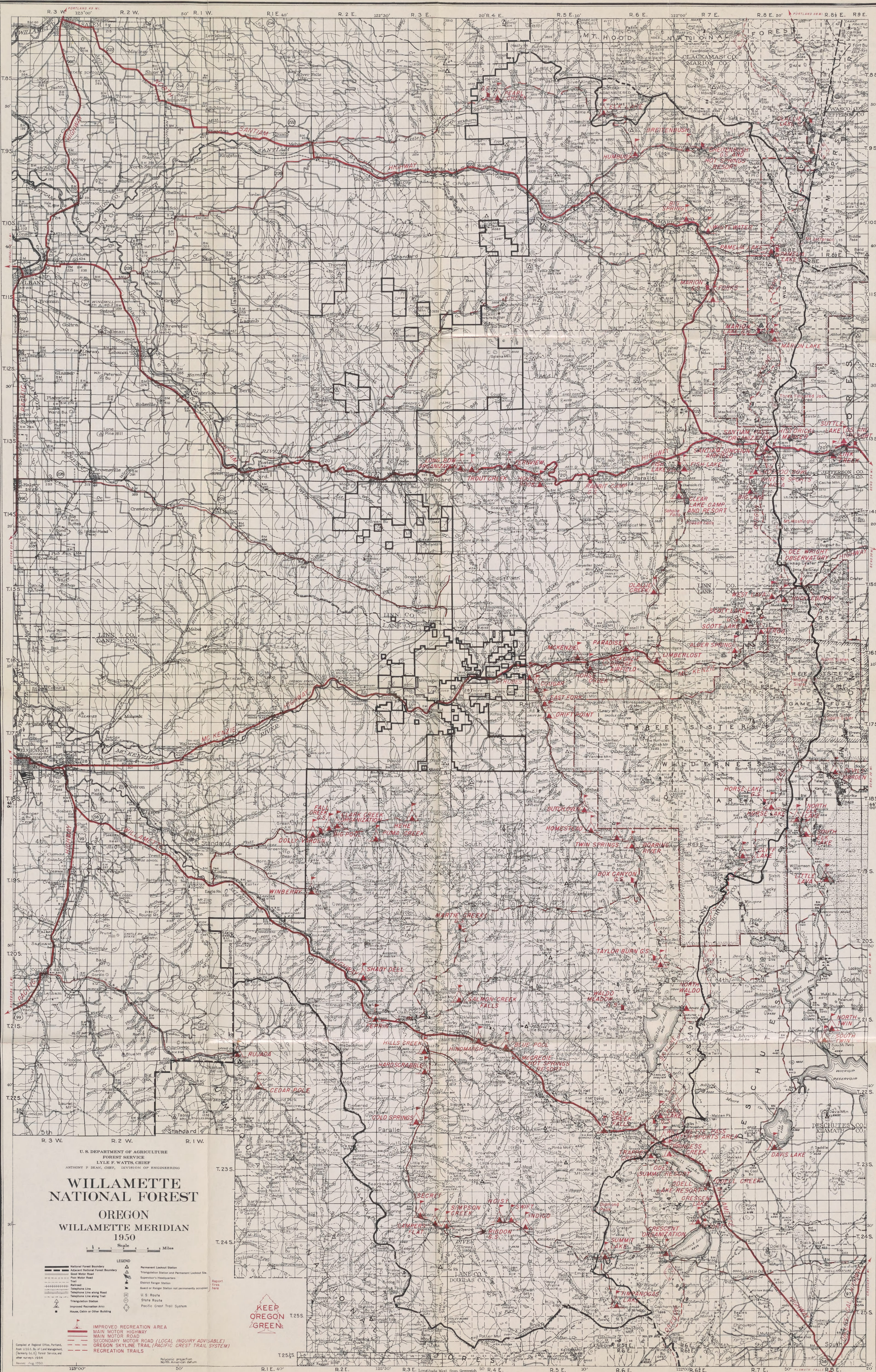
McKenzie River, often called the Whitewater River, is characterized by many falls and rapids where it cascades downward toward the lower valley. Running the lower part of the river in a small boat is an art of which local people are justly proud.



This is a good watershed. Its cover is a trap for water from rain and snow that would otherwise move off the steep slopes uncontrolled. The industries and health of people nearby and far away depend on its being properly managed and protected from fire.



The lakes and streams of the Willamette have been well-stocked with trout. This angler is enjoying an outing on McKenzie River.



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